

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/549,994

Examiner

Hung Q. Dang

Applicant(s)

AHN, JAEWOO

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to restriction election dated 9/4/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 24,26-46 and 68-71.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08) ✓
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment ✓
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance ✓
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the restriction election dated 9/4/2007.

Claims 47-67 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/4/2007.

Group I, claims 24-46 and 68-71 and the canceled claims 1-23 have been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Amy Bizon-Copp (customer number 23413) on 9/27/2007.

- **In the claims:**
- **Cancel claims 47-67.**
- **In claim 24**, after ".", add ",", wherein the Group I consists of characters 'Q', 'W', 'E', 'R', 'T', 'A', 'S', 'D', 'F', 'G', 'Z', 'X', 'C', 'V' and 'B', which are assigned to numeral key buttons '1', '2', '4', '5', '7', and '8', and the Group 1I consists of characters 'Y', 'U', 'T', 'O', 'P', 'H', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'N', and 'M', which are as signed to

numeral key buttons '2', '3', '5', '6', '8', and '9', such that at least one character is assigned to each key button", and delete ".".

- Cancel claim 25.

- **Replace the entire claim 68 with:**

"A method for inputting alphabetic characters through a character inputting interface based on an array of 3x4 keypad buttons of a phone, the method comprising: inputting alphabetic characters using a keypad, said keypad including a plurality of key buttons on which alphabetic characters are assigned in such a manner that alphabetic characters which are found on adjacent keys in a QWERTY keyboard are arranged on one or adjacent key buttons in the keypad by dividing alphabetic characters into a Group I for left hand inputting and a Group II for right hand inputting on the QWERTY keyboard and into a 1st Character Set, a 2nd Character Set, and a 3rd Character Set according to usage frequency, selecting one alphabetic character from each Character Set to form character combinations, and distributing these character combinations over the key buttons such that the alphabetic characters of Group I are arranged in a left column or a middle column of the keypad array and the alphabetic characters of Group II are arranged in a right column or a middle column of the keypad array; and processing the signals inputted through the keypad and outputting characters corresponding to the inputted signals;

wherein the Group I consists of characters 'Q', 'W', 'E', 'R', 'T', 'A', 'S', 'D', 'F', 'G', 'Z', 'X', 'C', 'V' and 'B', which are assigned to numeral key buttons '1', '2', '4', '5', '7', and

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'8', and the Group 1 consists of characters 'Y', 'U', 'T', 'O', 'P', 'H', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'N', and 'M', which are as signed to numeral key buttons '2', '3', '5', '6', '8', and '9', such that at least one character is assigned to each key button."

- **Replace the entire claim 70 with:**

"A method for inputting alphabetic symbol characters using a 3x4 array keypad including a plurality of key buttons, each of which is assigned a numeral, the method comprising:

inputting alphabetic characters using a keypad, said keypad including a plurality of key buttons on which alphabetic characters are assigned in such a manner that alphabetic characters which are found on adjacent keys in a QWERTY keyboard are arranged on one or adjacent key buttons in the keypad by dividing alphabetic characters into a Group I for left hand inputting and a Group II for right hand inputting on the QWERTY keyboard and into a 1st Character Set, a 2nd Character Set, and a 3rd Character Set according to usage frequency, selecting one alphabetic character from each Character Set to form character combinations, and distributing these character combinations over the key buttons such that the alphabetic characters of Group I are arranged in a left column or a middle column of the keypad array and the alphabetic characters of Group II are arranged in a right column or a middle column of the keypad array; and

processing the signals inputted through the keypad and outputting characters corresponding to the inputted signals;

wherein the Group I consists of characters 'Q', 'W', 'E', 'R', 'T', 'A', 'S', 'D', 'F', 'G', 'Z', 'X', 'C', 'V' and 'B', which are assigned to numeral key buttons '1', '2', '4', '5', '7', and '8', and the Group 1 consists of characters 'Y', 'U', 'T', 'O', 'P', 'H', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'N', and 'M', which are assigned to numeral key buttons '2', '3', '5', '6', '8', and '9', such that at least one character is assigned to each key button."

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 24, 26-46 and 68-71 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 24, 68 and 70, the prior arts of record fail to teach or disclose an alphabetic character inputting device as claimed in claims 24, 68 and 70, respectively, wherein Group I consists of characters 'Q', 'W', 'E', 'R', 'T', 'A', 'S', 'D', 'F', 'G', 'Z', 'X', 'C', 'V' and 'B', which are assigned to numeral key buttons '1', '2', '4', '5', '7', and '8', and Group II consists of characters 'Y', 'U', 'T', 'O', 'P', 'H', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'N', and 'M', which are assigned to numeral key buttons '2', '3', '5', '6', '8', and '9', such that at least one character is assigned to each key button.

4) The prior arts made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Suess U.S. Patent 7,216,588 teaches an alphabetic character input device, which has an alphabetic characters arrangement (shown in figure 12) similar to the above indicated allowable subject matter, except key # 9 of Suess does not contain any alphabetical character as indicated in the allowable subject matter.

Conclusion


5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Q. Dang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3069. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-3059. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hung Q Dang
9/27/2007
H.D.



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PRIMARY EXAMINER